

**Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman**  
**Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**On House Consideration of the American Clean Energy and Security Act**  
**June 26, 2009**

Today we are taking decisive and historic action to promote America's energy security and to create millions of clean energy jobs that will drive our economic recovery and long-term growth.

This bill, when enacted into law this year, will break our dependence on foreign oil, make our nation the world leader in clean energy jobs and technology, and cut global warming pollution.

As a result of these new policy settings, we will create millions of clean energy jobs for America, and restore America's technological leadership in clean energy.

We are also protecting consumers.

This bill tackles big problems that have been ignored for far too long: our dependence on foreign oil, our sagging economy, and the dangerous threat of climate change.

And it proposes solutions that will transform our economy and clean our environment.

There is a remarkable coalition behind this bill. Electric utilities support the bill. Manufacturers support the bill. Farmers support this bill. And so do the nation's leading environmental organizations, labor unions, and faith-based groups.

There are many members responsible for this remarkable coalition. On the Energy and Commerce Committee, John Dingell helped forge compromises with the auto industry. Rich Boucher developed ideas that will provide a future for coal. Mike Doyle addressed the concerns of the steel industry and other trade-vulnerable industries.

The Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee worked with us to make sure the interests of low-income families are fully protected. And the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee made sure the legislation addresses the concerns of farmers and makes them part of our energy future.

The need to act is clear and urgent.

There is a national security imperative to act. This legislation at long last begins to break our addiction to imported foreign oil and put us on a path to true energy security.

There is a scientific imperative to act. The evidence on global warming is overwhelming – and we have based our bill on the science.

There is a moral imperative to act. We have obligation to protect and preserve the environment for our children and the generations that follows.

And there is an economic imperative to act.

This legislation is an enormous jobs bill for America. It will promote enormous investment and growth for decades ahead – creating millions of jobs for the new energy economy of the 21st century.

Jim Rogers, the CEO of Duke Energy, said that as soon as this legislation becomes law, the company will invest \$25 billion in infrastructure over the next 5 years. PG&E said “We...see an incredible lost opportunity if we don’t act now... there are these amazing, developing new technology centers across the United States, and we see those jobs going overseas and that technology superiority going overseas.”

And this bill is affordable. The Congressional Budget Office found that this legislation would cost households an average of only \$175 in 2020 — less than 50 cents a day. EPA’s analysis put the cost at 22 to 30 cents a day — less than the cost of a single postage stamp — while lowering utility bills by 7%.

This bill is a tremendous opportunity to prevent a dangerous threat while creating millions of new jobs and driving economic growth. It will end our dependence on foreign oil and keep us more secure. It will support American farmers and give them opportunities for remarkable new revenues. It will create millions of new, stable, American jobs. Jobs that can’t be shipped overseas.

This bill will drive a new era of sustainable growth and innovation and I urge all members to support it.